

Washington, DC - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today voiced his concerns regarding the March 11, 2009 expiration of a government employment eligibility verification program known as E-Verify. Absent reauthorization by Congress in the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, E-Verify will lose all federal funding.

“Congress should reauthorize and fully fund E-Verify,” said Fortenberry. “As Congress continues debate on the FY09 appropriations bills, maintaining an effective verification system for legal workers and their employers should be a top priority. E-Verify is a commonsense immigration enforcement measure that strengthens and secures our legal workforce and protects businesses from inadvertent violations of the law. It should be a valuable tool, especially for small businesses.”

E-Verify, an internet-based employee verification program, was established in 1996. Administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the program relies on data from the Social Security Administration to verify employment eligibility.

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